

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1412
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Sergeant Ron Long, Jr.,
for his courageous military service in Operation
Iraqi Freedom III.

WHEREAS, our Nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee Army National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer; always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee Army National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee Army National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry, and they deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable Tennessee Guardsman is Sergeant Ron Long, Jr., a Combat Medic with the Heavy Hall Truck (HHT) 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ron Long, Jr., was mobilized for duty in support for Operation Iraqi Freedom III in June 2004, and he was deployed to Kuwait in December 2004 and deployed to Iraq in January 2005; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Long and the HHT 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment provided support during Iraq's first free elections in October 2005 and Iraq's first free Constitutional Referendum in November 2005, fighting to ensure freedom and liberty for the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, while at Forward Operating Base COBRA in Iraq, Sergeant Long was a Team Leader in the Aid-Station, treating illnesses and injuries ranging from colds, scrapes, and bruises to severe gunshot wounds and traumatic combat wounds; and

WHEREAS, in April 2005, he was selected as the only Combat Medic on the newly formed 278th Military Training Team, which was created to train and prepare a large battalion of Iraqi Army troops to assume the security and stability of their Area of Operation; and

WHEREAS, as Combat Medic for the 278th Military Training Team, Sergeant Long developed and implemented the medical training for a platoon of nineteen Iraqi Army Medics; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ron Long, Jr., has served in the Tennessee Army National Guard for thirteen years, completing basic training at Fort Leonardwood in Missouri in 1993; completing Medical Specialist Training Course at Fort Sam Houston in Texas from 1993-1994; serving with Detachment 1, Company C, 473rd Support Battalion from 1994-1996; and serving with HHT 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment from 1996 to the present; and

WHEREAS, in civilian life, Ron Long, Jr., works as an Emergency Medical Technician in the Trauma Unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and at the Lutz Family Care Clinic; and

WHEREAS, his many military and professional accomplishments aside, Ron Long, Jr., is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Sheril, and their marriage has been blessed with two wonderful daughters, Hailey and Courtney; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Long epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor Sergeant Ron Long, Jr., as he has made untold and innumerable personal sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and will continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Sergeant Ron Long, Jr., for his courageous military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom III, commend him for his service to the good people of the State of Tennessee, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.